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## 36 Portrait Of A Gamer

by Tom Bochenek

Carlos Baerga is the consummate gamer; both intense and exuberant. His love for the game is written all over his face and you only need to be around him for a second to catch the baseball bug yourself. A leader of the Indians both in the clubhouse and on the field, Baerga continues to improve his game and in the process is helping to elevate the Indians to stellar status.

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... Not just the fans. Baseball players, managers and sportswriters outside Cleveland are talking about the awesomeness of the Tribe.

## 88 Baseball's Inner Science

by Jim Ingraham

What is the thing that you can't see during a baseball game, but often has as much to do with wins and losses as home runs and strikeouts? This hard to describe aspect of the game is the difference between teams that can win it all—and don't vs. teams that can—and do.

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# in FOCUS

by Bernadette Repko

As the Cleveland Indians travel throughout the American League, the last words Mike Seghi, Director of Team Travel, wants to hear is, "Oh, I'm sorry, sir, your rooms aren't ready!" That's why the preparation and followup throughout the baseball season to arrange travel for the manager, coaches, players and media is continuous to be sure all goes well.

"I don't think anyone's going to be interested in what I do... I'm like a travel agent... it's no big deal," he says.

Not so, Mike... it IS a big deal.

The roll of "traveling secretary" embodies much more than ensuring that the ballclub gets from point A to point B. Yes, that's important... but Mike is also an integral part of the chemistry of the Cleveland Indians. Director of Baseball Operations and Assistant GM, Dan O'Dowd, says it best: "Mike Seghi is invaluable to this club. With his ability to play the role of confidant, listener, and enforcer, he is there every day, for every player, the manager, coaches, and trainers. There is no one better in the business.

"Because of his positive influence and the impact that it has, Mike has earned complete respect from every player and staff member associated with this organization. He is masterful at keeping the clubhouse loose, and as a result, everyone gets along—which is conducive to our success on and off the field."

Mike Seghi began his career with the Indians in 1975 with player/manager Frank Robinson at the helm. Twenty years and nine managers later, he's got it down to a science.

Born in Green Bay, WI, Mike grew up in the world of baseball back when his dad, Phil Seghi, managed the minor league Green Bay Blue Jays. From

there it was on to Iowa, North Dakota, Cincinnati, Pennsylvania, California—you get the idea. Travel is a big part of life in baseball.

Mike first met Frank Robinson while growing up in Cincinnati when Phil served as Farm Director in the Reds organization. "Starting out in this business under Frank Robinson was a real thrill for me," says Mike. "I'll never forget my first Home Opener with the Indians, when Frank stepped up to take his first at-bat—he smacked a home run—it was great.

"I think I have the right personality for this job, and a good sense of humor," Mike says. "Grover and the players know they have a friend in me—I'm here to help make their lives easier, so they can stay focused on what they need to accomplish."

Mike is in contact with a player as soon as he knows he's coming to Cleveland. That's where the one-on-one relationship begins. Whether an overnight accommodation or an entire family move is required, Mike handles it every step of the way.

The end result is the turn of a key, and it's done business.

"My wife, Patty, is in real estate, and we work together to make a lot of it happen. I communicate a player's needs and wants, and Patty takes it from there to find the perfect fit to make the transition as painless as possible. Keeping the guys and their families happy is what it's all about," Mike says. "We do our best to make them feel like part of the organization."

Mike's philosophy has always been, "Make traveling as smooth as possible... that's why we never travel the day of a game—you just don't know what can happen with delays or cancellations. We arrive the night before, so the players can get to the ballpark early the day of the game and the coaches and manager can hold their meetings.

"Our players almost never set foot into an airport terminal. All of our flights are chartered and a bus takes us to an off-base sight where we board the plane. When we arrive at our destination, we board a bus waiting just off the runway, our equipment is loaded onto a truck, and we're off to the hotel."

Each season's road trip is planned by the time spring training begins. It's a yearly process to receive bids from hotels, airline charters, buses, laundry services, trucking companies, etc.

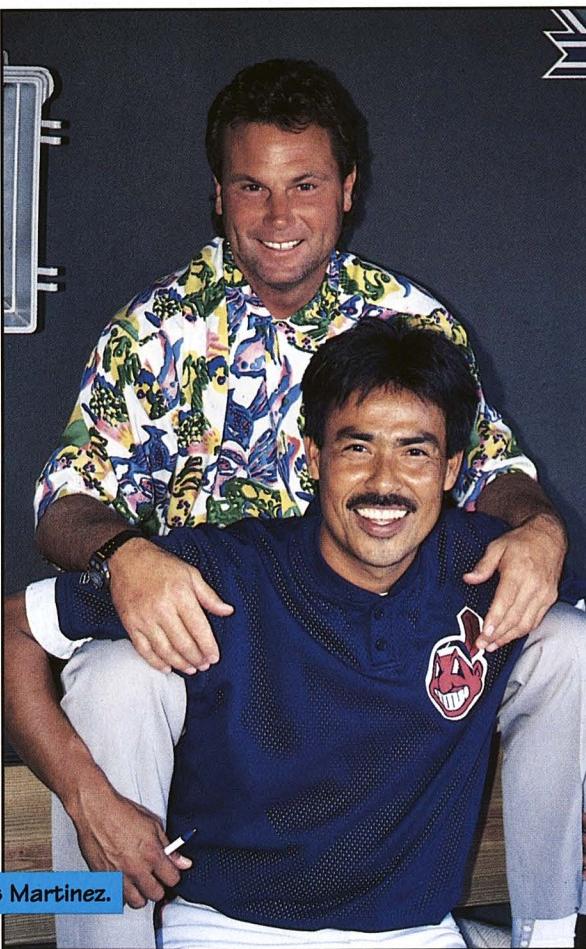
Once those decisions are made, contracts are written for the entire season.

"I feel one of my strongest traits is the ability to adjust to adverse situations. There's an old saying that I like, 'You know why the dinosaur doesn't exist?—he couldn't adjust!'

Former Tribe centerfielder, Rick Manning, remembers 20 years ago: "Mike and I met when his dad, Phil, signed me to the Indians. I wish I'd appreciated Mike's efforts back then as much as I do now. He's the best at what he does."

"It's a constant challenge, ensuring that all expenses are properly accounted for," Mike

Continued on page 58



Mike Seghi with pitcher Dennis Martinez.

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## GROUP OUTINGS

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#### Let's Get Together!

An interest in the grand old game has again unfolded with a new season of Indians baseball at Jacobs Field to enjoy.

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Tues.	April 18	7:05pm	SEA
Tues.	May 9	7:05pm	KC
Wed.	May 24	7:05pm	MIL

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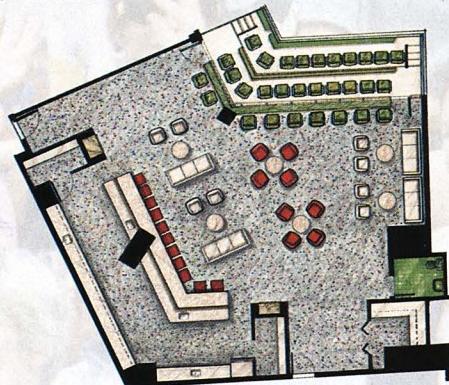
If you love good food and baseball, the **Davey Tree Picnic Plaza** is the place for you! Located in center field near the Indians bullpen, the Davey Tree Picnic Plaza is a park-like, multi-tiered area where your group of 30 or more can enjoy the fun of tailgaiting without the hassles! A variety of menus are available, including a box lunch menu, and a special kids menu. Space is limited, so make plans early. Call (216) 420-HITS for details.

### A "PARTY" ROOM WITH A VIEW

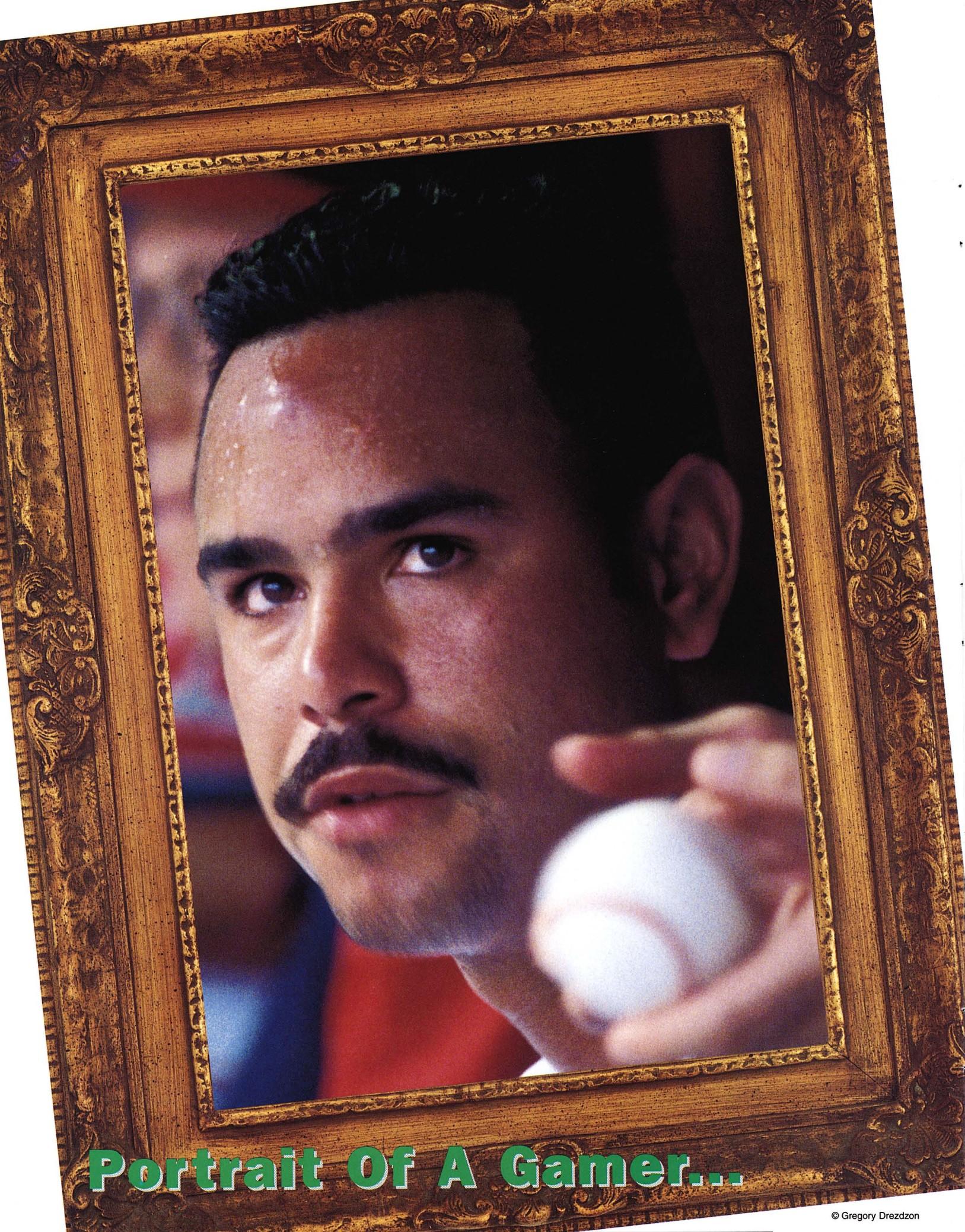
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**Portrait Of A Gamer...**

*By Tom Bochenek*

Say the word "baseball" to Carlos Baerga and the radiance in his marble-type eyes shoots out like the snap, crackle and pop of his signature line drives.

Life without the game? "I don't know about that," said a stunned Baerga. "I only think about baseball all my life. Sometimes, I think that I'm going to be playing baseball all my life, but I know this is going to end one day. I hope I can keep it going... and keep having fun."

In the parlance of the game, Carlos Baerga is the consummate "gamer." After all, he's moved around three infield positions in his professional career without a whimper; was at the center of two major moves by the Indians that shaped this contending team; has made himself an All-Star; and, tied a legend's unprecedented standard in his last at-bat in 1993 with a leg that he had to drag up to the plate.

So, if you're Indians Manager Mike Hargrove, the task is simple—pencil Baerga in at second base every day, in the all-important third spot in the batting order and... let him play "and keep having fun." With that familiar bounce to his step and that joyful approach to the game, it's the best way to appreciate the Tribe's two-time All-Star.

If baseball had a schedule calling for a game each day, Baerga would be in the lineup 365 days. As it is, 162 days (or, at least 144 games this season) plus another 40 games in the Winter League in Puerto Rico keep Baerga at his favorite vocation—on the diamond—for more than 200 days a year.

Consider this: Baerga's job description puts him at the intersection of traffic in the middle of the field where his body meets the ground and hard-charging base runners. Whether it's turning the pivot on a double play with a Mo Vaughn or a Cecil Fielder barreling into his

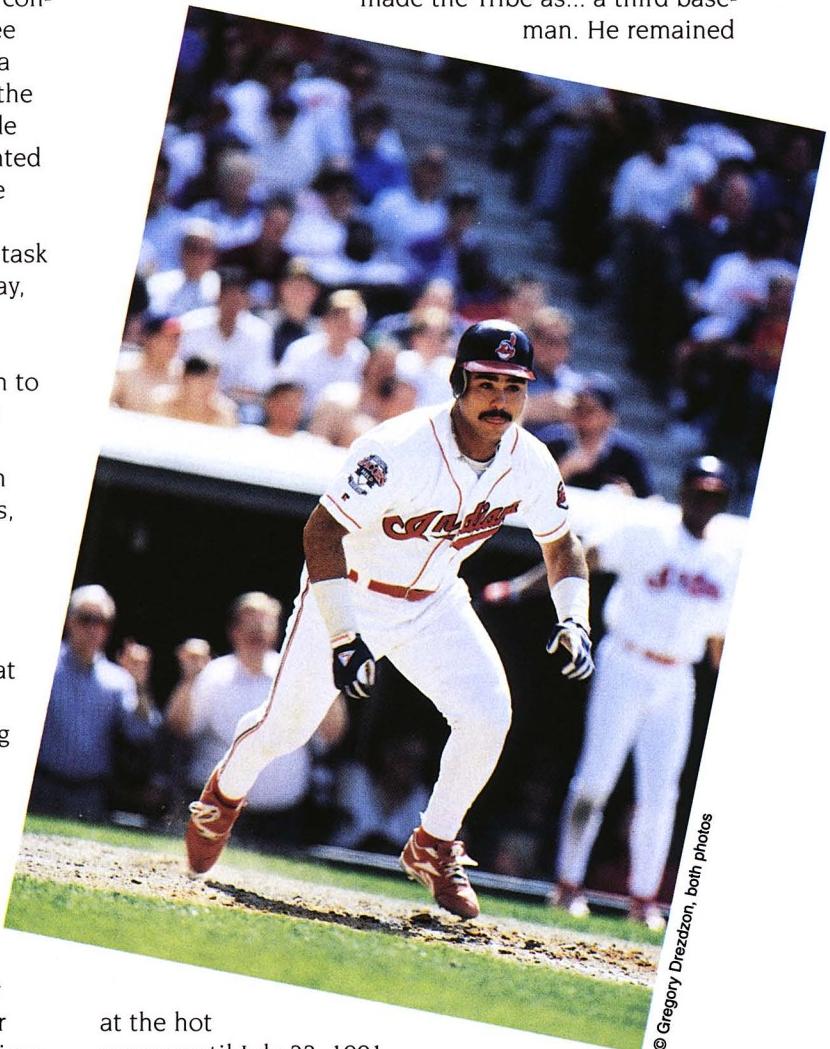
mid-section, or diving to either side for line drives or hard smashes, Baerga is at a spot that is prone to sustain injury more than any other position, save catcher. Over the last four years, however, Baerga has missed just 23 games.

**If baseball had a schedule calling for a game each day, Baerga would be in the lineup 365 days. As it is, 162 days, plus another 40 games in the winter league in Puerto Rico keep Baerga at his favorite vocation—on the diamond—for more than 200 days a year.**

For sure, the Indians didn't miss out on anything when they acquired Baerga, Sandy Alomar and Chris

James from San Diego on December 6, 1989 for Joe Carter. It was the first of two strategic moves by the Indians involving Baerga in their blueprint plans for success—acquiring young, talented and versatile players who could be placed according to the franchise's needs. In Baerga's case, he was moved from second base to shortstop in the minors because the Padres saw Robbie Alomar as the team's future second baseman.

That versatility was evident when Baerga made the Tribe as... a third baseman. He remained



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at the hot corner until July 23, 1991 when the team moved him permanently to second base. The Indians saw a powerful right arm that could throw bullets, and visions of strong off-balance throws behind second base and the grit to hang in there on double play pivots and deliver quick throws to first danced in the Tribe's hierarchy. Thus, the position move was made and Baerga's impact was immediate as he helped the team turn 88 DPs in the last 72 games of 1991. The move also paved an opening for Jim Thome at third base, who was first called up to Cleveland on September 4, 1991.

Baerga put aside the pressure of making the position switch work, and, in his first full season with the

Indians, led the team in hits (171) with 11 home runs and 69 RBI, second best totals on the team. At 22, Baerga was named the Indians "Man of the Year," an award he would win again, unanimously, in 1992.

Since the move, Baerga twice has led the American League in total chances and he topped all AL second basemen in double plays with 138 in 1992. No question about it, Baerga's involved in the field and it's the type of workload that can take its toll, but the 5'11", 200-pounder just wants to keep on playin'.

"Not really, you know, I want to keep playing," Baerga said of the thought of retiring from winter ball. "Every time I come from there, I come ready to play (in Cleveland). I think that league has helped me a lot, especially on defense, to be the kind of player that I am right now."

Right now, Baerga is heralded as one of the young thoroughbreds in a stable who daily shows up at post time at Jacobs Field. For sure, there's no checking of the lineup to see who bats where. But, then again, no lineup in the Majors has the consistency, speed, power, and stability as the Indians. The box score is slotted daily with: Lofton, Vizquel, Baerga, Belle, Murray, Thome, Ramirez, Sorrento, and Pena (and, soon, Alomar).

The '95 Indians are an ideal blend of youth and experience. Still, it's hard to believe, but true—Baerga is a six-year veteran at the tender age of 26. Signed through the 1998 season with a club option for 1999, Baerga accepts the role of leader.

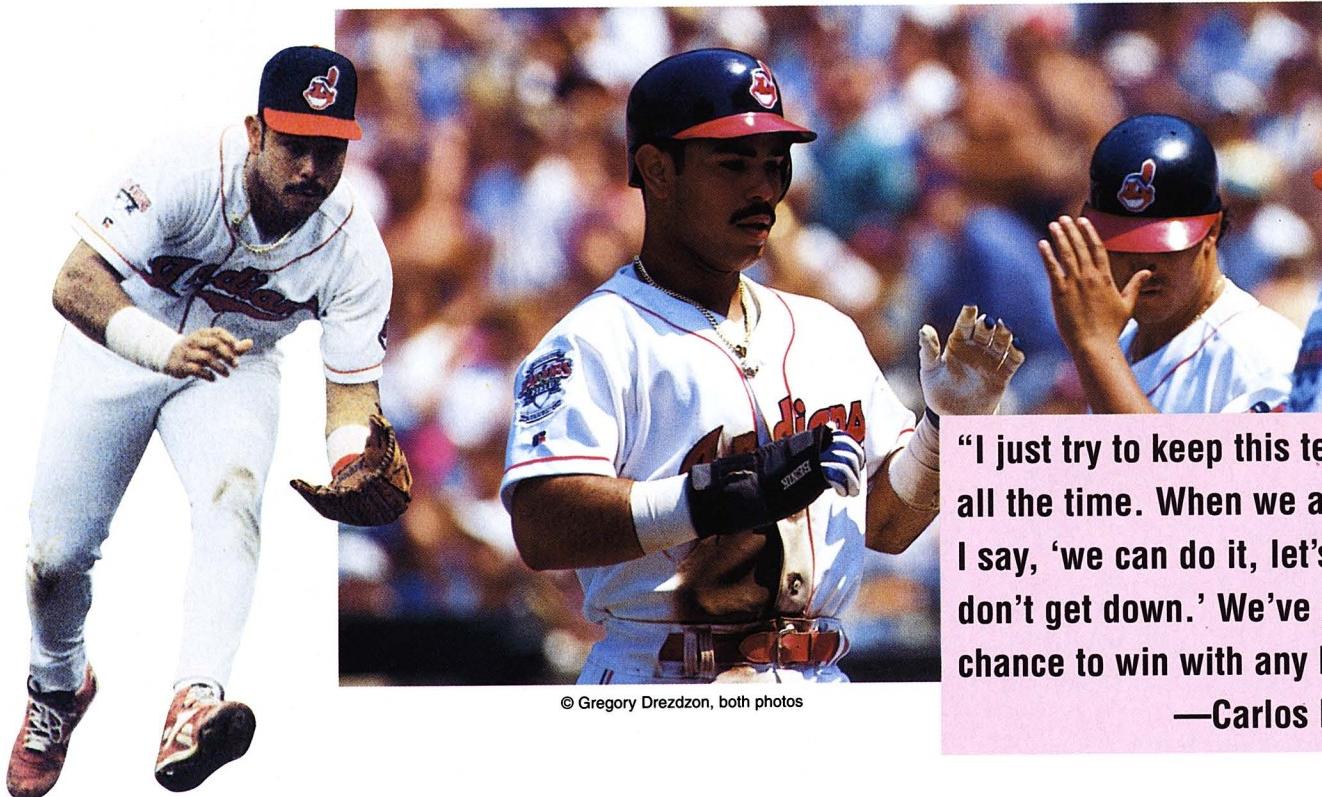
"Yeah, because I've been here for a long time," Carlos said. "I just try to keep this team up all the time. When

we are down, I say, 'we can do it, let's go, don't get down.' We've got the chance to win with any batter. I'm more of a leader on the field than I am inside because I like to joke around, I like to play, I'm a happy guy. I just like to have fun all the time."

And, just as his leadership and defensive presence have him in the middle of action, Carlos is at the forefront of the Tribe's attack. The third spot in the order is reserved for a team's most consistent hitter, one who should spray the field with line drives, who displays moments of power and who makes the most contact. Think of baseball's greatest hitters and many of them who batted third fit the resume: DiMaggio, Mays, Aaron, Clemente, Williams (Ted and Billy), Yastrzemski, Musial, and, of course, the man who wore his batting order position on his jersey—No. 3 Babe Ruth.

Carlos has owned the rights to the third spot in Cleveland since July 3, 1991 with a style that wouldn't quite make the Spalding Guidebook on hitting technique. Using a unique open stance from both sides of the plate with a distinct leg kick that ignites the swing, Baerga's strong and quick wrists generate the bat speed that produces his classic slashing line drives to all parts of the outfield.

"It's not fundamentals," Baerga said of his hitting technique. "I don't think: 'I have to do this all the time,' I swing at everything. That's why I'm not like other hitters who always have the same swing. If you throw me the ball low, I'm going to make the adjustment to hit that ball, if you throw the ball high, I'm going to swing



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**"I just try to keep this team up all the time. When we are down, I say, 'we can do it, let's go—don't get down.' We've got the chance to win with any batter..."**

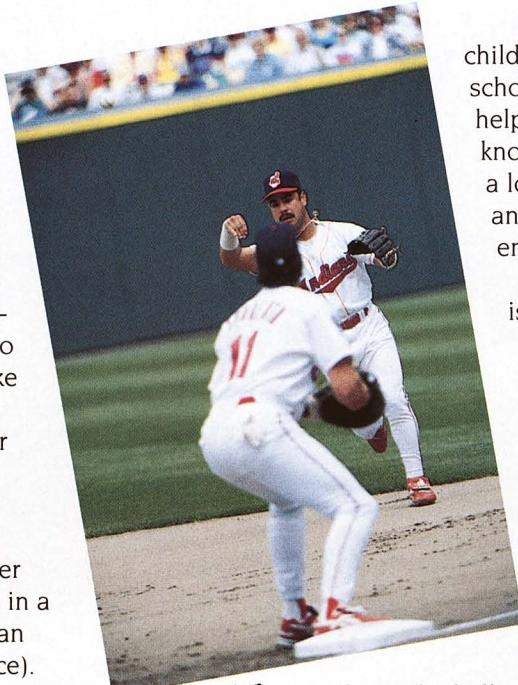
**—Carlos Baerga**

too. I'm a free swinger."

The reminiscent style is that of Roberto Clemente, the slashing righthanded hitter of the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1960s and early 70s, whose unorthodox hitting ways of attacking every pitch made him a .317 hitter and whose fielding prowess took him to Cooperstown—the only player from Puerto Rico who is enshrined in the Hall of Fame. Like his fellow Puerto Rican, Baerga entered 1995 as a lifetime .300 hitter (.303) and is working on his fourth straight .300-plus season.

"Roberto Clemente was my hero," Baerga said of the Pirates' rightfielder who died on New Year's Eve in 1972 in a plane crash just after takeoff from San Juan, Puerto Rico (Baerga's birthplace). The plane was destined for Nicaragua where he was leading a mercy mission for earthquake victims.

"I like to help people, I like to help the kids because they did it when I was a little kid," Carlos said in reverence to Clemente's love of giving to others, especially



© Gregory Drezzon

children. "I like to tell kids to stay in school, don't use drugs and I try to help them because so many kids don't know where they are going. There are a lot of people running their lives, and most significant, are the influences of parents."

"In Puerto Rico, Roberto Clemente is an idol."

Like Clemente in the lineup, Baerga has accepted the responsibilities that are inherent with the job of batting third in the Tribe's volatile attack.

"Oh, I feel comfortable," Baerga said of his role in the order.

"Since I've been here, I've been hitting third. I'm a line drive hitter, I just try to hit the ball hard and if I hit the ball right

there, the ball's gonna go."

"My role there is to bring runners in, get on base for Albert (Belle), and, if we have a guy on first base with a lefty pitcher, try to move that guy from first to third and to use that hole in there," said Baerga who has provided punch from the third slot with an average of 20 home

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runs and 100 RBI in each of the last three seasons.

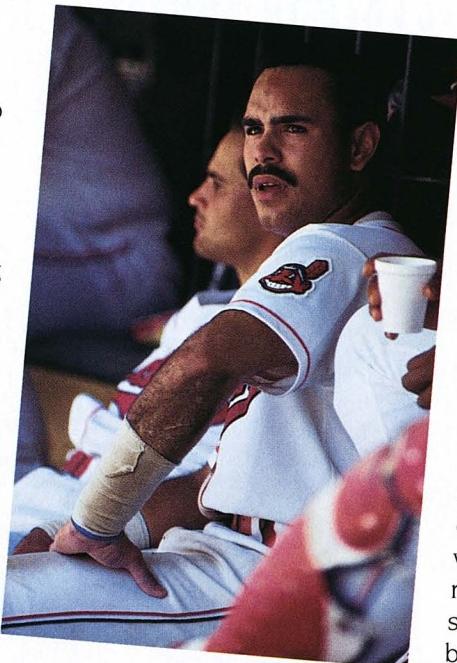
"The third hitter has to be patient up there and you have to get on base for your No. 4 hitter."

Patience? Baerga has taken the thought to heart this year. He leads the AL in hardest to strike out, fanning just once for every 32 plate appearances. Those consistent contacts have enabled him to rank among the top three in the league in hits and multi-hit games.

The hits have kept on comin' for Carlos since his arrival in Cleveland in 1990. On more than one occasion, they have landed him in the Major League record book. There was the evening of April 8, 1993 when he became the first player in history to hit two home runs from both sides of the plate in the same inning. The homers came off the New York Yankees' Steve Howe and Steve Farr in the seventh inning.

Two years later, Baerga's feat stands out as a national treasure.

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"Every year, they talk about it," Baerga said of fans and media who recall the moment. "It's incredible for me because I never thought I was going to do that. There have been so many good players who never did it, like Mickey Mantle, who have so many home runs. To be the only one is special to me."

The other special moments in the record book link Baerga with another Hall of Famer, Rogers Hornsby. Hornsby, a second baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals, New York Giants and Chicago Cubs, was the first second baseman to hit .300 or better with 200 or more hits, 20-plus home runs and 100-plus RBI in the same season. Hornsby did it five times between 1921 and 1929.

Baerga equalled the achievement in 1992 when he hit .312 with 205 hits, 20 home runs and 105 RBI. Duplicating the standard required an act of bravery.

Carlos was easily fulfilling three-fourths of the landmark in 1993 as he was hitting .321 with 21 homers and

Continued on page 96.

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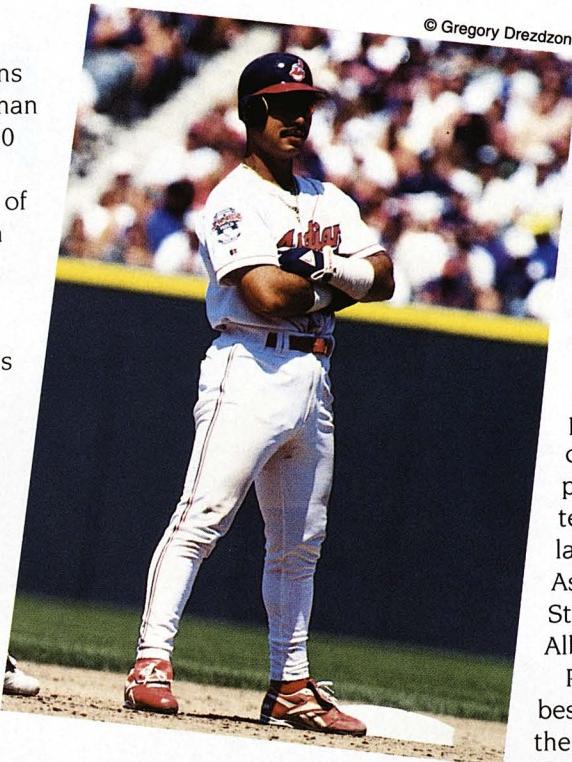
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## BAERGA, Continued...

114 RBI, which were the most runs batted in by an AL second baseman since Bobby Doerr knocked in 120 runs for Boston in 1950. But, he was spending the waning games of the season in the hospital with a leg infection, still one hit shy of 200 for the second consecutive season, which would be another Indians historic moment that was reached by just three players.

On Friday night, October 1, 1993, in the final weekend at Cleveland Stadium against Chicago, before more than 70,000 fans, Baerga dragged his injured leg to the plate in the eighth inning. Carlos was 0-for-3 with two strikeouts against hard-throwing Alex Fernandez. In what was to be his last plate appearance at the Stadium, Baerga executed a perfectly placed bunt down the third base line and legged out a hit for his 200th hit. A throng that sounded like a Browns game roared as Baerga exited for a pinch runner and entered the record book with Hornsby for a second straight year.



© Gregory Drezdow

"It meant a lot to do it here," Carlos told the media after the game "I wanted to do it for our fans."

"I thought the best chance for me to get on was to bunt. The guys had been telling me that I should do it. The third baseman was playing back and they said I should give it a shot."

The shots that Baerga has pounded out have earned him two consecutive Silver Slugger Awards, presented annually to the top hitter at each position. In addition, last year, Carlos was selected to the Associated Press Major League All-Star Team along with teammate Albert Belle.

Perhaps Tommy LaSorda said it best 20 years ago when he described the way Pete Rose played baseball: "Pete Rose plays baseball like my wife shops... all day long." In this day when

the game needs gamers, perhaps the LA Dodgers manager could update that thought, this time with Carlos Baerga in mind.



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#### Answers to "Field of Play," puzzle, page 98:

Clockwise from middle bottom: Jacobs Field; Wrigley Field; Marshall Field & Co.; Henry Fielding (author of Tom Jones); infield; Springfield, IL; an oil field; leftfielder Albert Belle; corn field; Sally Field; centerfielder Kenny Lofton; Field & Stream; soccer field; ice field; rightfielder Manny Ramirez; W.C. Fields; Track & Field (hurdles); Deerfield Beach, FL; Jayne Mansfield; Coors Field; field goal; earth's magnetic field; Dave Winfield; *Field of Dreams*; Ebbets Field; field hockey; field glasses; football field; field mouse; battlefield; wheat field.



# **Jim Thome: From The "Heart"land...**

By Bill Needle

Jim Thome is as open as the heartland of America in which he was raised. He is completely without guile.

To watch him, even for a minute, in an unguarded situation like pre-game stretching, one sees he doesn't have a devious bone in his body. He's straightforward, honest, uncomplicated and without pretension. Another Illinois native, the late poet Carl Sandburg, would have loved Thome, "laughing with white teeth, third baseman of the big shoulders."

But just because Jim Thome is without guile doesn't mean he's without talent. In the first few months of the '95 season, as the Indians raced to the best record in baseball, Thome established himself as one of the best all-around third baseman in the league, hitting for average as well as power. Just as impressively, Thome has also emerged as one of the best fielding third sackers in the league.

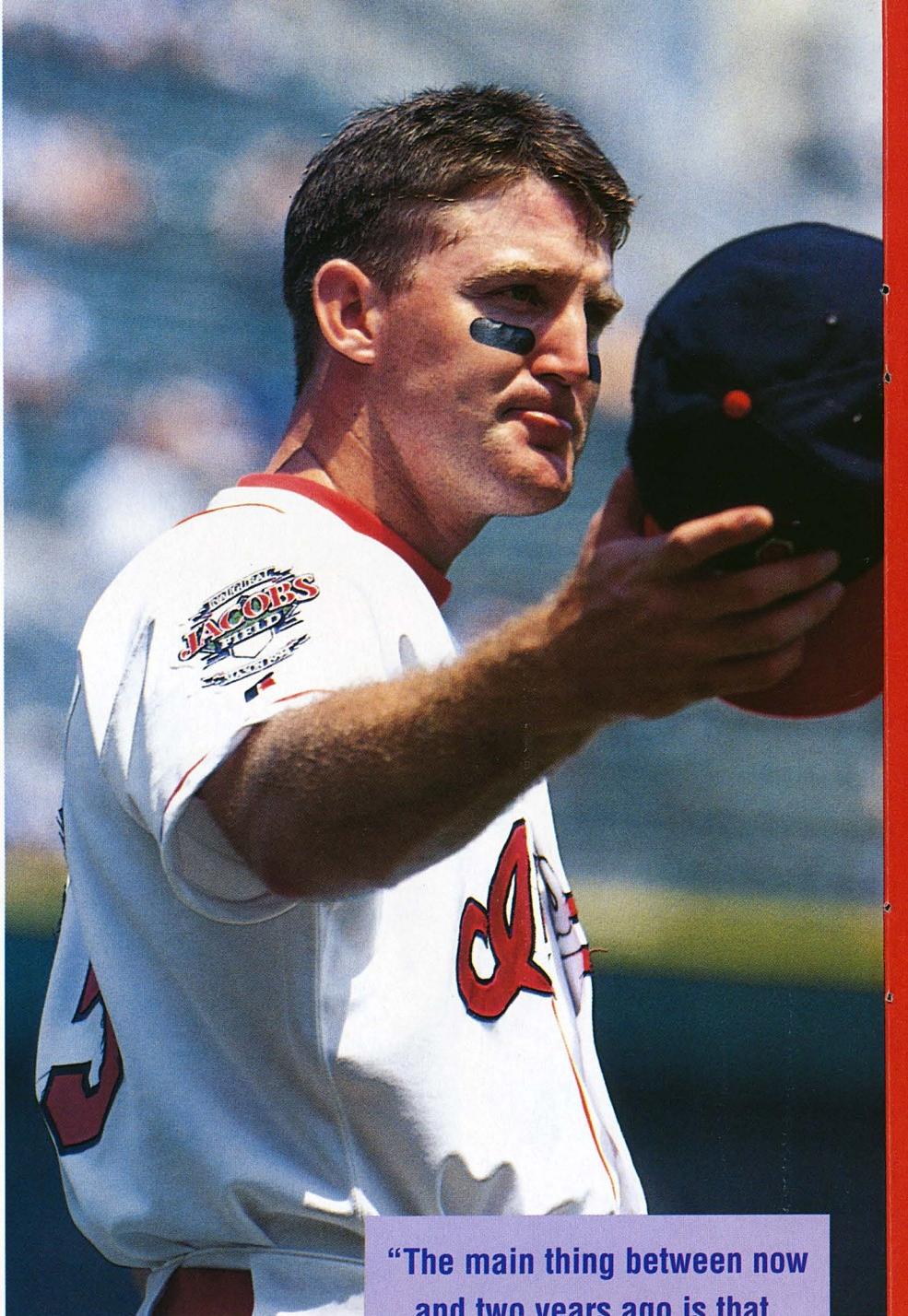
"I've worked on my fielding, a lot," he said. "I've come early to take ground balls and try to improve. I know my defense needed work, and I've worked at it."

So has Buddy Bell. The Indians infield coach has spent hours with Thome. Grounder after grounder, lesson after lesson, day after day, Jim Thome and Buddy Bell have combined to develop a player who might be regarded as a textbook third baseman before too many seasons have passed.

"Jim doesn't know any other way than to work hard at baseball," said Bell. "He's really tough on himself, too tough sometimes. Sometimes I'll get on him for his mistakes. But more often, I want to help keep his spirits up.

"I think Jimmy is the prototype third baseman," Bell added. "He's big at 6'4" and about 220 pounds, and when you look at big players at third, it depends on their footwork. If they've got good footwork, it doesn't really matter if they're as big as Jim. He's got very good feet."

He's got a pretty good bat, too. Near the end of June, Thome was among the American League leaders in batting average, hitting over .330. He also found himself



© Gregory Drezdzon

near the top in homers.

"I never was much of a power hitter in the minors," Thome said. "I'm kind of surprised at all the homers I've had the last two years. I had a chance to hit 30 homers if the season hadn't been stopped."

Thome hit 20 homers in his first full season with the Indians in 98 games of the interrupted 1994 season. Through late June, he was on a pace to hit 30.

**"The main thing between now and two years ago is that, after an error, I want the ball hit to me. The key in the field, just like at the plate, is to stay positive and believe in yourself." — Jim Thome**

Thome is a homegrown Indians product, like his teammates Albert Belle and Manny Ramirez. But unlike Belle, a second round pick, and Ramirez, a first round draft choice, Thome was selected relatively late—in the 13th round—of the 1989 free agent and amateur draft.

After struggling to a .237 average in his first season of pro ball with the Tribe's Rookie League team in 1989, Thome's career skyrocketed toward the Majors like one of his homers rockets toward the right field seats at Jacobs Field.

He hit .373 in the first 34 games of the 1990 campaign at Burlington and then added a .308 mark in Kinston after being moved up to a tougher Class A league the same season.

By 1991, his second full season as a professional, Thome was in Double A, just an hour away from Cleveland at Canton-Akron. Continuing to wield the hot bat that would get him to Cleveland that same year for 27 games, Thome hit .337 to earn another promotion—this time to the Tribe's Triple A affiliate in Colorado Springs. With the parent Indians in 1991, his third team of the year, Thome managed a respectable .255 average in 27 games in his first experience in the Major Leagues.

He started 1992 with Canton-Akron, hit .336 to start the season, and earned another trip to "The Show." But a .205 batting average forced the Indians to send him down to Triple A again, and what looked to be a yo-yo route between the minors and Majors continued.

"The thing about Jim," said Tribe General Manager John Hart, "is that in any league he's ever played in, once he becomes comfortable, he usually wins "player of the year" honors. We knew he'd find that comfort zone eventually."

Thome's entry into the Major League comfort zone came on August 13, 1993, the night he returned to the Indians to stay. Since then, he has figured prominently in the Indians plans, so much so that he signed a long-term contract with the club prior to the 1994 season. Thome is signed with the Indians through the end of the 1997 season, with a club option for the '98 campaign. In keeping with his midwestern America background, Thome and the Tribe came to an honest meeting of priorities.

"The Indians were honest with me," Thome said. "They made a commitment to me by making me the regular third baseman and I showed a commitment to them.

"They gave me security and I took it. Now I go out and have fun and play." It didn't always seem like baseball was fun for Jim Thome, no matter what the wide grin of a brilliant '95 season may say these days. In his early days with the Indians, Thome was uncertain in the field and tentative at the plate. But not anymore, especially in the field.

"The main thing between now and two years ago is that after an error, I *want* the next ball hit to me. The key in the field, just like at the plate, is to stay positive and believe in yourself."

Actually, Thome's defensive problems in his early days were with his throws to first base. But tireless work on that aspect of his defense with the help of Bell has cured the problem.

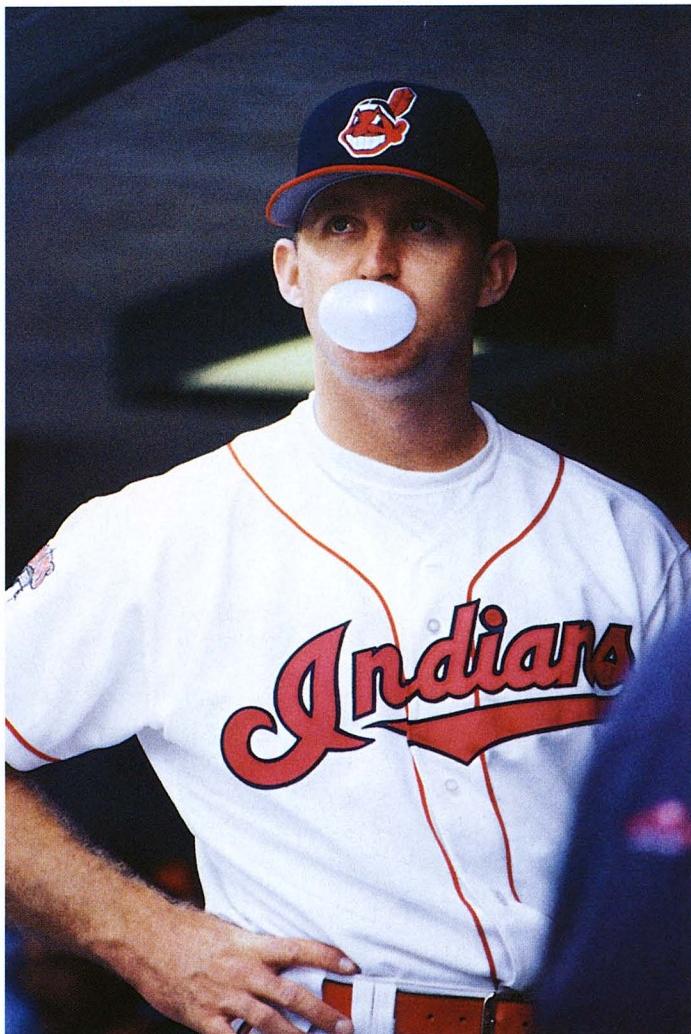
"Jim's problem last year was that he was standing straight up to make his throws," Bell said. "He had no balance, and it hurt his accuracy because it was affecting his release point. He was releasing the ball differently on every throw.

"Now, he's found the proper 'slot' to throw the ball from and he's found his comfort zone with it."

There's never been much doubt about Thome's comfort zone at bat. He's hit .300 at every level of pro ball from Class A to the Majors and it looks like he's just beginning to reach his potential.

"Jimmy's not just strong, he's a smart hitter, too," said Manager Mike Hargrove. "There were times in the past that he did things that really concerned me, times when he would be defensive at the plate and not work the pitcher. Maybe he'd take two inside strikes and then swing at a ball for a third strike.

"He's maturing at the plate and the combination of experience and his natural ability should make him a



© Gregory Drezdzon, both photos

tougher out than he is—and he's been a pretty tough out thus far."

Another area in which Thome has matured is in his approach to the game. Always a hard worker, there were times when he would press because of an error, or a bad at-bat. These days, the intensity has been tempered with the patience that comes from experience.

"There's just so many games in a season that you can't get too high over a good game or too low over a bad one," he said. "I just go out and play, day after day, and try to remember that there will be times that I'll

struggle, but I'll get through those times. I've already been through those times."

The people who are really in for the tough times are American League pitchers. On many teams, a hitter of Thome's ability would hit third or fourth in the order. On the Indians, he hits either sixth or seventh, depending on whether the Tribe opponent sends a righty or lefty to the mound.

"We've got a great lineup and it doesn't matter to me where I hit," Thome said. "And watching hitters like Eddie Murray gives a lot of lessons on how to work pitchers

and all the other things you need to be a really great hitter in this game.

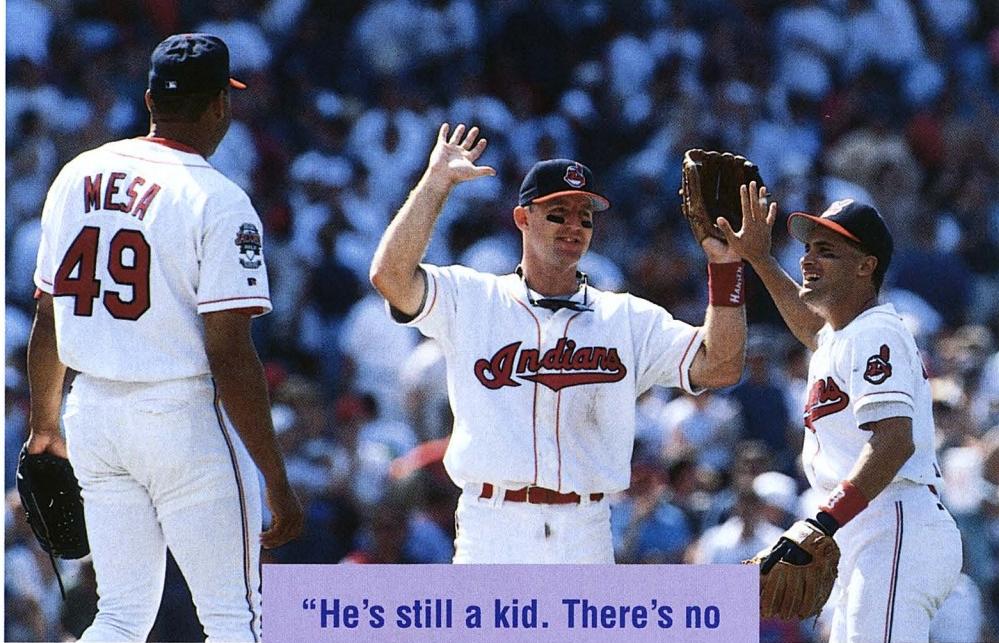
"I owe a lot to Charlie Manuel, too. He managed me in Charlotte in 1993 and helped me quite a bit in my hitting, fielding and in my approach to the game. He has a good way of working with players."

There's a tendency to regard Jim Thome as having been around Cleveland for a long while, given the fact that he's seen action with the Tribe in all or part of every season since 1991. The most amazing fact about Jim Thome isn't his fielding, or his power, or his ability to hit for average, or even his open, friendly personality. What really boggles the mind is that Jim Thome will turn 25 years old in August. He's still growing, maturing, and developing as a person and as a player.

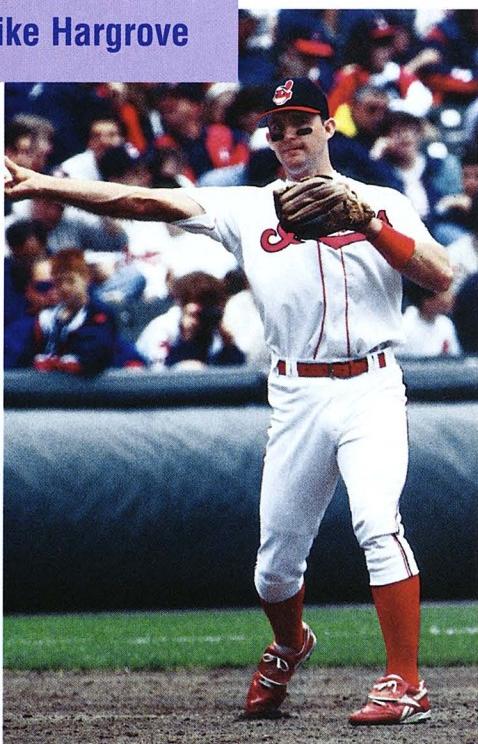
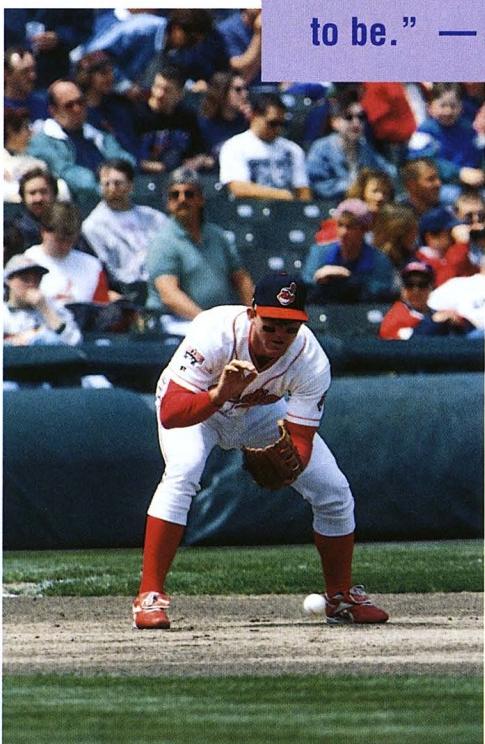
"He's still a kid," said Hargrove. "There's no telling how good he's going to be."

And the apparently limitless future of Jim Thome is enough to make opposing pitchers wish the ball-parks they pitch to him in were limitless, too.

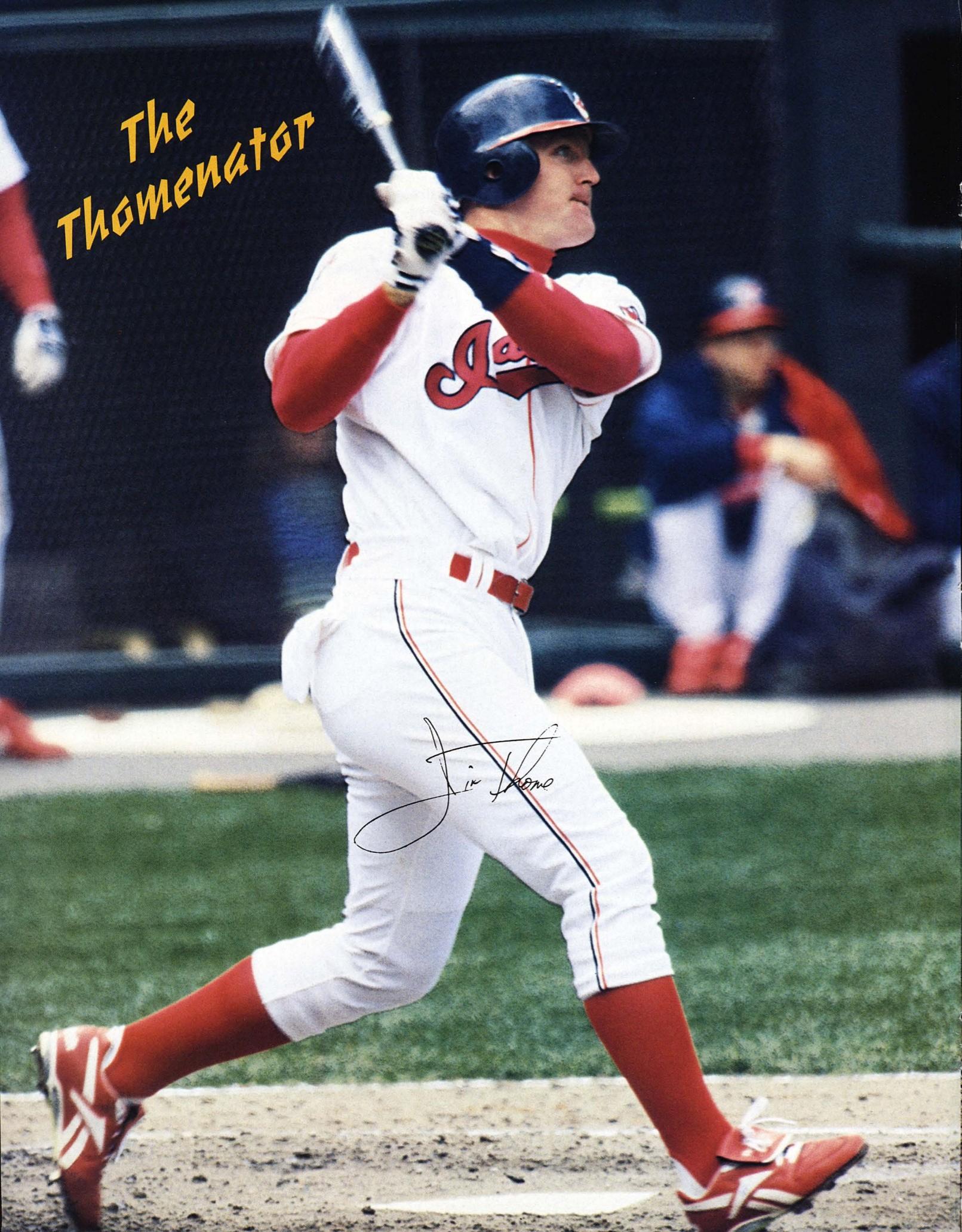
Not too many fenced-in areas have been able to hold him lately.



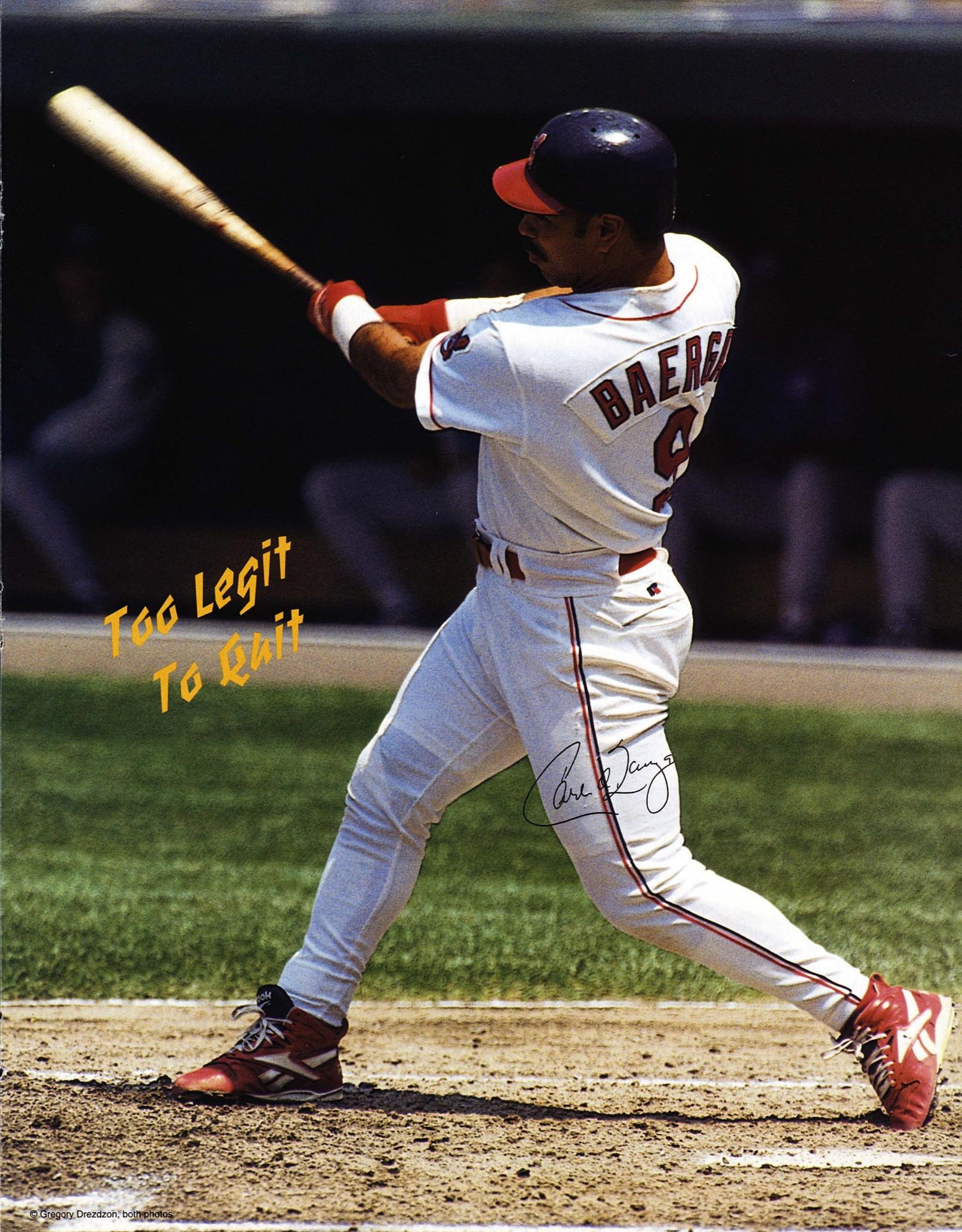
**"He's still a kid. There's no telling how good he's going to be."** — Mike Hargrove



The  
Thomeminator



Too Legit  
To Quit



better prepared to examine talent, having seen all the different parks and knowing how the ball reacts in different stadiums, where the ball carries well and where it doesn't, where offense and artificial turf are a big deal, where the grass comes into play.

There's no doubt that having seen and actually played on all the fields in both leagues will give me an advantage, so joining an American League team was a key factor in my decision to sign with the Indians.

**Q. Were you a good hitter in the National League?**

A. Yes, pretty good, and with the designated hitter rule in the American League, I miss (batting) a lot.

Hitting is another way to compete with the opposing team because, when a pitcher comes up in the No. 9 hole in the batting order, it's his skill against the opposing pitcher's skill. You know, *mano y mano*, man to man, and he (the opposing pitcher) has to come up as a batter, too. You've got to bear in mind that a pitcher can actually beat the opposing team by his ability at bat, as well as with his ability to pitch.

Hitting is a lot of fun. I have always prided myself on being a complete player, and for a pitcher in the National League, that includes bunting, moving runners over, suicide squeezing, and even hitting away. I really enjoyed that part of the game, and I miss it, but I accept the difference between the two leagues.

**Q. Were there occasions with the Dodgers that your hitting ability made a difference?**

A. One in particular comes to mind. In the second game of the 1988 World Series against Oakland, I went 3-for-3 and gave up only three hits. I also had some three-hit games during the regular season, although I never hit a home run. I always swung for singles, to make contact, I never really tried to hit for power.

**Q. Do you still take batting practice with the Indians?**

A. No. Not any more (chuckling). They don't even let us pitchers touch a bat. I think they're afraid we'll get hurt.

**Q. Do you think there'll ever be a time that you will go to the plate as a batter for the Indians?**

A. If it ever comes down to a point in a game where we used every single position player, and it was extra innings, and

somebody got hurt, there'd probably be a battle at the bat rack among our pitchers.

Buddy Black was a pretty good hitter in the NL, and so was Mark Clark, as I recall. I don't know about Paul Assemacher (who also pitched in the NL), but most of the rest of the guys on our staff were born and bred with Cleveland in the American League and have never used a bat in a game.

**Q. Other than the designated hitter rule, do you see a big difference in the two leagues?**

A. I see tremendous differences, I really do. One is a difference in umpiring, though it seems to be mostly a difference in human beings, from umpire to umpire.

As for the teams themselves, I think there also is a difference in the players, the way they play the game. For example, over here (in the AL) the singles hitters look to drive the ball more. I also think (AL) batters swing a lot earlier in the count instead of looking for walks, because they tend to be rewarded here. By that I mean, warning track fly balls in the National League are possible doubles, but are home runs in certain parks in the American League.

There are more offensive parks in this league, like Fenway Park in Boston and Tiger Stadium in Detroit. Some of the other parks in the AL have configurations (of the playing field) that result in doubles and home runs, but would be definite outs in the NL.

The warning track fly ball hitter, and the singles or ping hitters in general, try to drive the ball a little more here because they will be rewarded for their efforts.

**Q. Does that mean it is easier to be a successful pitcher in the National League?**

A. Philosophically, it is probably easier to pitch in the National League, depending upon your style. But if you are making quality pitches, it might be easier to pitch

you have a chance to trick the hitters in the counts. When the count is 3-and-0 or 2-and-0, or even 2-and-1 and 3-and-1, batters here (in the AL) don't look for walks as much as they do in the NL. Here, batters look to start a rally with a hit or a homer, which means the bat is moving more, there are more free swingers here.

**Q. Does Cleveland's weather—this has not been a good spring—bother you?**

A. I like this kind of weather. Remember, I was born in Buffalo, raised in (Cherry Hills) New Jersey, and attended Bowling Green (State University). But I also feel that weather is an important dimension of the game that smarter players can use to their advantage.

For example, there are parts of the field to which the ball might carry better than others, and the batter might be trying to do something different because the wind is blowing in or out, or to left or right field.

Fans, especially those who are truly knowledgeable about the game, can see that the pitcher might be pitching a whale of a game if he wants the ball hit to right field because the wind is blowing in from there. Or that he made a mistake by getting the pitch on the inner half of the plate and the batter was able to pull the ball to left, which hurt the pitcher because it otherwise would have been a routine fly ball, but turned out to be a home run.

That's what I mean

**Q. What about Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda? Do you miss him?**

A. I miss all my friends out there. But I don't think that, in saying I miss being a Dodger, that I am cutting down the Indians, or that I don't enjoy being a member of the Indians.

I had some great years in LA. I made a lot of friends and have a lot of relationships that still exist out there, and of course I miss that. I was there a long time. But I am also looking forward to what is on the horizon here, and I am enjoying this part of my life very much.

**Q. What about your shoulder injury and subsequent surgery?**

A. The operation was performed on April 27, 1990. It (the injury) was the result of a long process through the spring of 1990 and the first four or five starts (of the '90 season). The best way I can describe it is that my shoulder just wore out. The doctor reconstructed my anterior labium, which is the front of my shoulder, the capsule of my shoulder, and

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cleaned up

some of the rotator cuff muscles. It was a shoulder reconstruction, anterior ligament reconstruction, the first of its kind on a professional pitcher. Jerry Pate, the professional golfer, had it done, and so did Jim McMahon, the quarterback. But no one had it and came back at the level we were trying to do it as an ML pitcher. I believe I'm still the only one to have done it.

There is no doubt it was career-threatening. I didn't know if I'd be able to pitch again, or how effectively I would be able to pitch. I was fortunate to have Dr. (Frank) Jobe, the Dodger physician, work on me. Pat Screnar, the physical therapist for the Dodgers also did an outstanding job. And, of course, I've got to thank the good Lord, too.

Continued on page 70

in the AL because the bat is moving more, and

about weather adding a dimension to the game.

**Q. Don't you miss the constant good weather of Southern California?**

A. Of the 162 games in a season, the Dodgers play 81 (all home games) in perfect weather, and they know that, for a day game the temperature is going to be 85 or 90 degrees, and for a night game it would be 65 or 70. But as I said, weather doesn't bother me. I grew up in the kind of weather we get in Cleveland.



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**Q. How long was it before you were able to come all the way back?**

A. I missed 13 months. They said it would take two years for me to make it back, but I did it much sooner, though I wasn't officially all the way back—by my standards—until the full two years had passed.

**Q. How do you compare yourself now to the kind of pitcher you were before the injury and operation?**

A. I haven't lost anything because of the surgery. Whatever I might have lost is because I am older. When I finally got all the way back after two years, it wasn't that the surgery had taken anything away. It was that I was two years older, and while I am older, I am also wiser. Maybe I have a little less velocity, a little less snap in my pitches, but the surgery has brought me all the way back. And the fact is, right now my arm never felt better. I have unbelievable strength.

**Q. How much longer will you want to pitch?**

A. As long as I am effective and contributing. I think I am doing that now, and I think I'll continue to do so for at least two to three more years. I'll take inventory then.

**Q. What would you like to do when your playing career is over?**

A. There aren't many jobs in baseball I would want, though I'd like to be a general manager, or possibly manage in the big leagues, or maybe broadcast. There are only 28 managers and 28 GMs in the Majors, which means there are only 56 jobs that I might like, and in broadcasting there's maybe only 112 jobs. But I've got plenty of time (as a player) before I have to think about that.

**Q. Would you be interested in a job as a pitching coach?**

A. Not especially, although it would possibly be a stepping stone. Perhaps a minor league managing job would, too, though it would require conversations (negotiations) with the organization that might be interested in hiring me to see if there would be a plan for me to reach a certain position.

**Q. What about your college baseball career at Bowling Green?**

A. I pitched three seasons at Bowling Green, though I didn't do very well in my freshman and sophomore years. I pitched enough innings as a junior to be All-Mid American Conference and was drafted by the Dodgers in the 17th round in 1979. (After which he signed and played at Class A Clinton, Iowa the rest of that season, at Class AA San Antonio in 1980 and '81, and Class AAA Albuquerque in '82 and most of '83.)

**Q. What was your problem as a freshman and sophomore at Bowling Green?**

A. I hadn't grown up enough and wasn't really strong enough to play at the college level. (Hershiser's coach at Bowling Green was Don Purvis, former Berea High School star athlete.)

I need about another year to earn my degree in selling and sales management and I plan to get it eventually.

**Q. Is Orel a family name?**

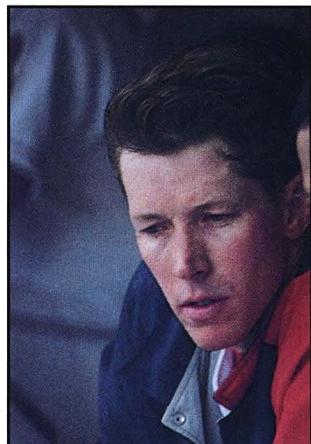
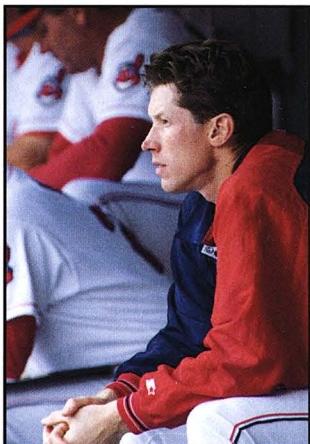
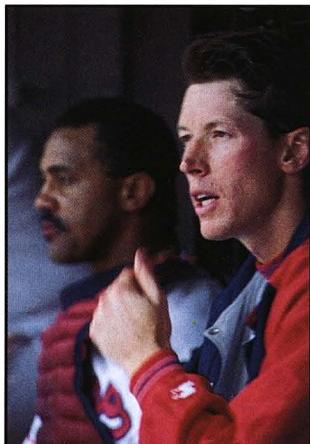
A. Yes. I am Orel Leonard Hershiser IV. Orel is a Slavic name meaning Eagle, and it was also a town in Russia that was in Germany before WWII. We (the Hershisers) are descendants of a Hessian (German) soldier who was from Orel. My family tried to research the name but all we could find out was that Orel means eagle. Actually, I learned that from (tennis star) Martina

Navratilova during a commercial we both made in 1988 for athletic shoes. She told me the story.

My son is Orel Leonard V, though we call him "Quinton," which is Latin for five, to save him from being called Orel. He is 10 years old, and my other son, who is six, is named Jordan Douglas. My wife is Jamie, and we were married in 1981. We met while I was pitching in San Antonio, though she is from Mattoon, Ill.

And, before you ask, Quinton, Jordan and Jamie all like Cleveland a lot. So do I.

**And so does Cleveland like Orel Leonard Hershiser IV. A lot.**



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## HOW TO SCORE

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

Team	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	=	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		⑤
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	I		
TOTALS	R H	I I	I 2

Walked and was forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop).  
 Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on double by 3rd place hitter, scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.  
 Doubled; did not advance further.  
 Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.  
 Struck out—end of the inning.  
 Singled; later forced out at second (2nd baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).  
 Hit into double play (2nd baseman to shortstop to 1st baseman).  
 Hit home run.  
 Flied out to leftfielder—end of inning.

### USE THESE SYMBOLS FOR PLAYS

— Single	FC Fielder's Choice	PB Passed Ball
= Double	HP Hit by Pitcher	BK Balk
≡ Triple	WP Wild Pitch	K Struck Out
☰ Home Run	SB Stolen Base	BB Base on Balls
E Error	SH Sacrifice Hit	FO Forced Out
F Foul Fly	SF Sacrifice Fly	IW Intentional Walk
DP Double Play	CS Caught Stealing	

### CAN YOU SCORE THIS PLAY?

The ball was hit to the shortstop, who threw it to the second baseman. The second baseman was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.



© Gregory Drezdzon, 1994

BK SB  
WP W

In this example, the hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on pitcher's balk, scored on a wild pitch.





# Everybody's Talkin'

"They have great ownership, an outstanding facility and terrific young talent."

—Frank Robinson

"I love the Indians. Of the 28 teams in baseball, in my mind, they are the best. With a 144-game schedule, Mike Hargrove opened the season with 90 wins in the popcorn popper. They are that kind of good." —Sparky Anderson, Manager, Detroit Tigers

"This is an awfully good team. They'll have a seven-year run here. These cats ain't going to leave here. They're going to win so much, they're not going to want to separate from what's going on."

—Sparky Anderson

"I will say they're the best team in baseball. It's like what they said when John Wooden was at UCLA. The Bruins could lose if they were a little off and the other team played outstanding. That's the way it is against the Indians." —Sparky Anderson

"Right now, the Indians are the best team in baseball. That was the best pitched game I have seen all year."

—Sparky Anderson on Orel Hershiser's game (June 5, 1995)

They are a great team. There's not much getting around it. They've got a lot of great hitters. They've got leadership and young players, solid pitching, solid defense and they run extremely well. There's not any area where I can say: This is going to be their downfall."

—Travis Fryman, 3rd Baseman, Detroit Tigers

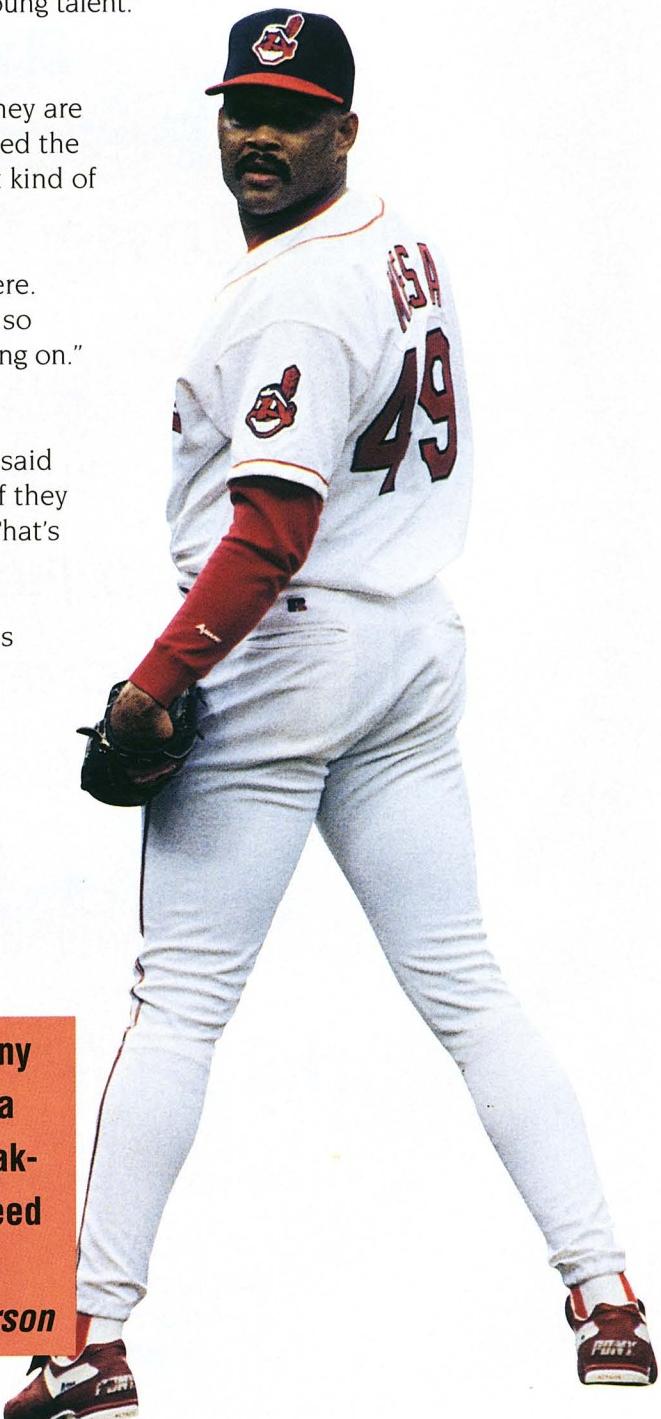
"Their lineup has you caught in a total crossfire. Oh, they're nasty.

—Sparky Anderson

"They're rocket-launchers. They just hit the ball harder and harder. They just lay back and tee off." —Sparky Anderson

**"Mesa has the best stuff of any closer in the league. He has a great fastball and a hard breaking ball. What else do you need for one inning?"**

—Sparky Anderson



# TRIBE!

"Believe me, they've got all their blocks in order. I don't ever want to see them again. They can drive right on by Detroit, and I'll call in a 3-2 loss. It'll be a lot easier." —Sparky Anderson

"It seems to me that they were building this team in 1992. They knew Ramirez was coming along, and it looked like they were building for the opening of Jacobs Field." —Gene Lamont, former Manager, Chicago White Sox

"He is the best player on the team. He makes everything go." —Ozzie Guillen, shortstop, Chicago White Sox on Kenny Lofton

"The Cleveland Indians are no longer the same team that all you people have gotten used to. They now have joined the living. I love that city more than any other. There's nothing wrong with Cleveland that a good team couldn't fix."

—Pete Franklin, former Cleveland radio sports personality

"They are Murderers Row with an attitude." —Dan Bickley, staff writer, Chicago Sun-Times

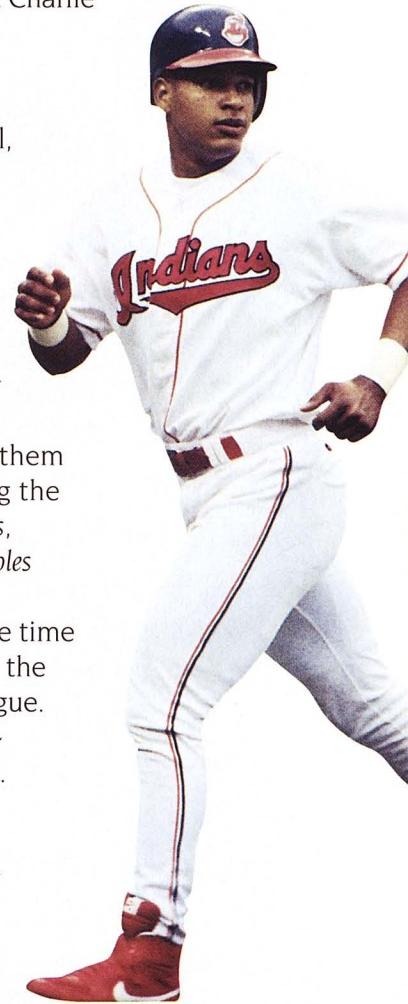
**"They are good from 1 to 9. You don't see that very often."** —Gene Lamont

"The ballpark is gorgeous and John Hart and Dan O'Dowd have done the most fantastic job with this team. But Charlie Manuel is the reason this team's hitting. Charlie relates with the guys well, but more importantly, he gets you to hit."

—Jeff Manto, 3rd Baseman, Baltimore Orioles

"I'm not surprised at how well they're doing. They made a commitment to young players and tied them up. Now, they're reaping the benefits." —Doug Jones, relief pitcher, Baltimore Orioles

"People come up to me all the time and say: The Indians are the surprise team of the league. No, they are not the surprise team of the league. You could see this coming." —Jim Kaat, ESPN baseball analyst and former ML pitcher



**"They have speed—world class speed in the case of Kenny Lofton—and they have pop from both sides of the plate. They're playing very confidently. They're taking pitches just below the knees on 3-2 counts and not ever flinching, just walking down to first."**

—Phil Garner, Manager  
Milwaukee Brewers

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## CLEVELAND INDIANS CHARITIES

Cleveland Indians Charities was established in 1989 with the purpose of making a Major League impact in the areas of youth education and recreation. Through fund raising events such as the CIC Golf Classic, Stop-n-Shop's SpringFest, Jacobs Field tours, the CIC Luncheon Series and several concourse game booths, nearly \$500,000 has been raised for numerous organizations in northeast Ohio during the past six years. Some organizations and programs that benefit from CIC's efforts are: Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland, Luke Easter Park, the Community Fund for Assisting Missing Youth (A.M.Y.), Shoes for Kids, Rookie League, Larry Doby RBI, Cleveland Indians Academy, United Way, the United Negro College Fund, Cleveland Baseball Federation and Esperanza.

### CLEVELAND INDIANS ACADEMY

In its second year at Joseph M. Gallagher Middle School, the Cleveland Indians Academy is helping students at risk of dropping out achieve and stay in school. They are learning social and academic skills to help them succeed in high school and in life. The four major components of the program include: academic instruction, support services, mentoring/job experiences and transition into high school. Through Cleveland Indians Charities, the Academy will receive \$150,000 during a three-year period.

### ESPERANZA, INC.

The Indians have found a partner in the Hispanic community by working with Esperanza, an organization dedicated to the educational enrichment of Hispanic youths in Greater Cleveland. Second baseman Carlos Baerga has personally donated a college scholarship for the past three years to a deserving student at the annual Fiesta of Hope Scholarship Luncheon. This year's Fiesta of Hope Luncheon celebration is scheduled for June 23. Please call 651-7178 for more detailed information.

### LARRY DOBY RBI PROGRAM

The Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities (RBI) program, **sponsored by SportsChannel**, continues to grow. Last summer it was officially renamed after Indians alumnus Larry Doby. In its third year, the league provides urban youths with an opportunity to learn and play baseball. The league extends past that goal and

stresses positive self-esteem, attendance, sportsmanship and positive life skills.

Games are played at League Park. With help from United Black Fund, local and national sponsors, the program includes playoff games, tournaments and an RBI World Series trip for the All-Stars to a Major League city.



Credit: Gregory Drezdow

### UNITED WAY HOME RUN DERBY

This annual program enlists corporate support for each home run hit during the season by the United Way Home Run Derby player chairman. For doing what he does best, Albert Belle has helped raise more than \$108,000 in four years for United Way through the Derby. In eight years, Tribe sluggers have been instrumental in raising more than \$200,000 for United Way's area programs and services.

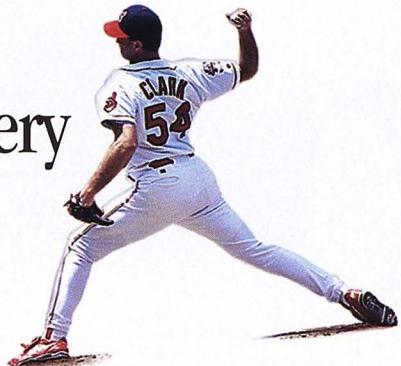


The ONLY place you can hear . . .

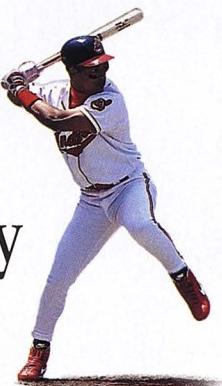
Every



Every



Every



On The RADIO Home of The Indians



All Sports. All The Time.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND THE INDIANS MAKE "TEAM" A WINNER

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, will make comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message:

**PLEASE DON'T  
DRINK AND DRIVE.**

Major League Baseball joined TEAM in 1987. Fourteen organizations are now members of the coalition, representing professional sports, federal and state agencies and private industry. In addition to Major League Baseball, Allstate Insurance Company, CBS Sports, Comsat Video Enterprises, the International Association of Auditorium Managers, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Association of Governor's Highway Safety Representatives, the National Basketball Association, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, the National Traffic Safety Administration, the National Hockey League and the National Safety Council are members.

TEAM was established to accomplish two objectives:

- Assist ballparks and arenas in the development of alcohol management policies and procedures.
- Conduct public service campaigns that reinforce awareness of the dangers associated with drinking and driving. These campaigns promote the value of a designated driver and the importance of responsible drinking.

As part of the TEAM program, each Major



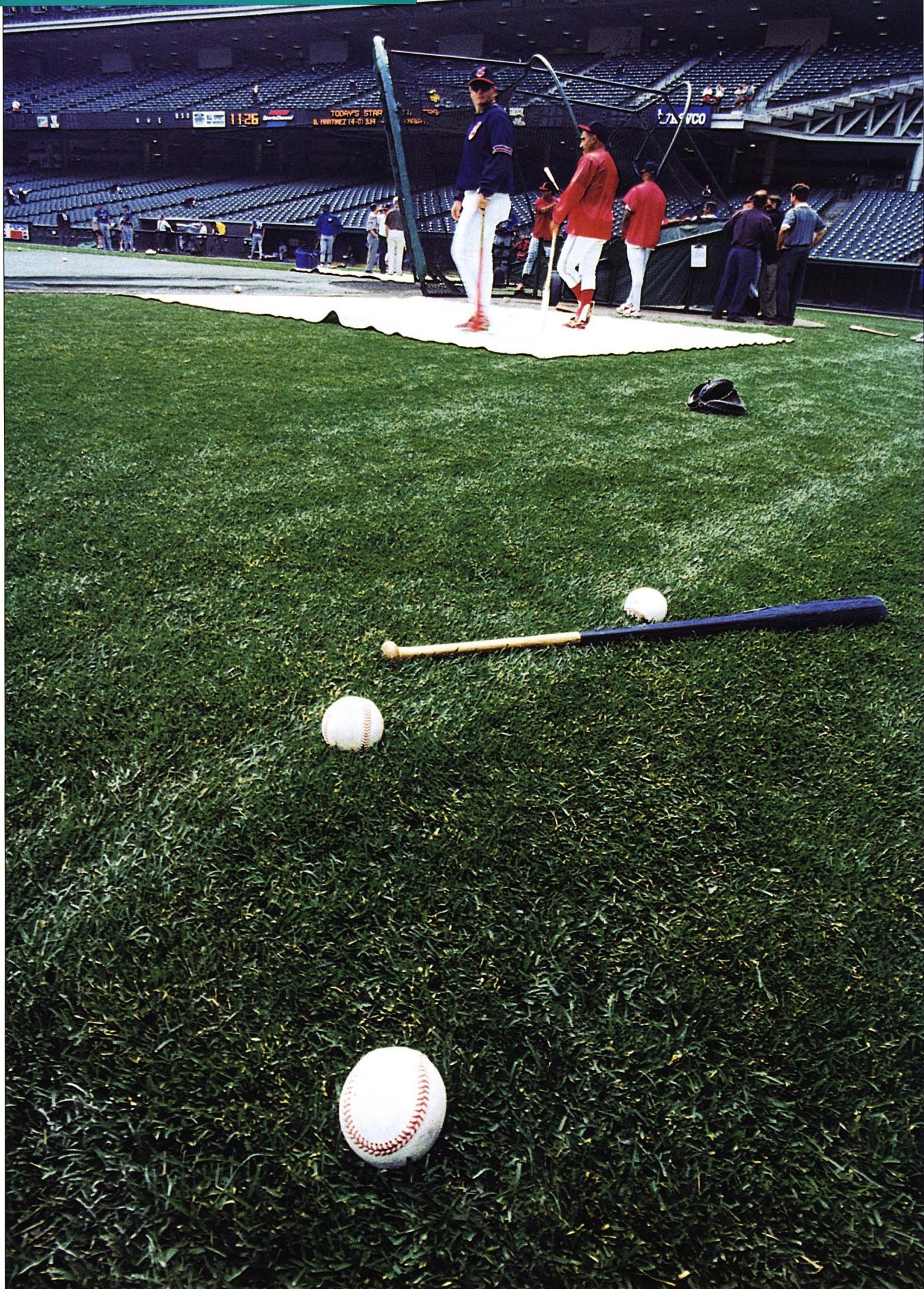
League club has reviewed and altered its alcohol policies. The size of the cup and the number of beers a customer can purchase have been drastically reduced. Many clubs now cut off beer sales before the game ends and nearly half do not vend beer in the stands. Alcohol-free sections are commonplace in many parks. Every club is running public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warning them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The results have been encouraging. The number of alcohol-related incidents in and around baseball parks has dropped.

Baseball's efforts also include a multi-media public service announcement campaign that promoted "TEAM Spirit" on television during network telecasts of regular and post-season games. TEAM PSA's over the years have featured Tommy Lasorda, Mark Langston, Shane Rawley, Chili Davis and Don Baylor encouraging fans not to drink and drive.

The Indians have also jumped on the bandwagon when it comes to safe, responsible drinking at Jacobs Field. All hosts, guest service personnel, security guards, ticket sellers and parking lot attendants are trained in spotting the signs of intoxication among fans and how to control and prevent alcohol-related incidents. In addition, there are banners behind concession stands encouraging fans to drink responsibly and to choose a designated driver in their group. Those interested in participating in the Designated Driver program, **sponsored by A1 General**, may sign up at Guest Service Centers, Section 116 of the Main Concourse or Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, to receive a free soft drink certificate, a wristband saying they aren't purchasing alcohol and a chance to win a Tribe cap from the Indians Team Shop.

# THE 1995 CLEVELAND INDIANS



## BOTTOM OF THE NINTH



**"Hey Omar, I think you need shorter shoe laces!"**